

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Marc Degady et al.

Serial No.: Applied for

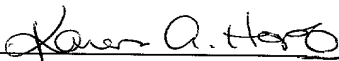
Filed: Herewith

For: CONTINUOUS COATING OF GUM MATERIALS

Attorney Docket No.: WLCO 0165 PUS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified continuation application, please enter the following amendment.

In The Specification:

Page 1, before the first line, add the following:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/374,935 filed on August 16, 1999.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-12.

Please add new claim 13 as follows:

13. (New) A method for continuously coating cores of gum material to provide a smooth, thick shell of coating material thereon comprising:

(a) continuously introducing cores of gum material into an inlet end of a rotating drum member;

(b) transporting the cores of gum material from said inlet end to an outlet end of said drum member;

(c) applying a coating material on said cores of gum material inside said drum member;

(d) drying said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said drum member; and

(e) inclining said drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said drum member;

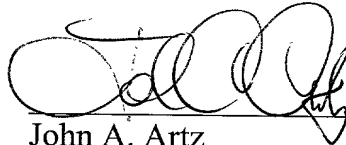
wherein a smooth, thick shell of coating materials is formed on each of said pieces of gum material comparable to coatings formed by batch-type coating processes, and in a faster manner.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a continuation application. Claim 1 currently pending in the present application is being retained with claims 2-12 being canceled. New claim 13 has being added by this Amendment. Thus, claim 1 and 13 now remain in the continuation application for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Artz', is written over a horizontal line.

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"**In the Claims:**

Claims 2-12 have been canceled.

New claim 13 has been added.